

Story 829 (1974 Tape 18)

Narrator: Kara Ahmet Durmaz, 65

Location: Tercan, a kaza town  
of Erzincan Province

Date: August 12, 1974

The Soft Answer of Osman Kalkan Turneth Away Wrath

There was a very heavy rain once when the municipal building of Tercan was a house owned by Osman Kalkan. This house was made of wood, and its roof was made of sod.

On this occasion the rain fell in torrents, and water leaked through the roof so badly that the town secretary propped all of the official documents on the window sills to keep them up out of the water. By the time that the mayor arrived, the inside of that building was like a lake. The mayor was furious about this, and he sent at once for Osman. When Osman arrived, the mayor asked him angrily, "What kind of a place is this? Just look around here!"

"Please listen to me for just a minute," said Osman.

Even more angry now, the mayor demanded, "What can you possibly want to say? Go ahead and tell me!"

Osman Kalkan said, "Sir, this calls for God's mercy. He does not give His mercy to everyone, but you are very fortunate that He has given His mercy to you.

Considerably softened by this remark, the mayor said "All right, you can have the roof repaired later. You may go now."